8/14/73

Dear Harold,

This is in reponse to the last 2 sets of letters you sent.

I have a couple comments on your comments about my brief notes on WG. I think we depart mostly on factual issues. On the Hoover matter--that Hoover was "papering" the files, you write that Hoover is alleged by Ehrl. to have done in this in response to requests for info on demonstrators/violence. This is not what Erl. said. He said this specifically in reference to the FBI investigation of Ellsberg. Your reasoning probably still holds, that is, that you side with the dead fascist on this issue, but I wanted to correct your apparent misunderstanding. Surely you remember the whole exchange with Weicker over this, where Weicker tried to prove Erl. wrong by introducing evidence to show that the FBI was conducting a complete invest. of the Ellsberg matter.

You say that Nixon could have escaped his own bugs by a simple throw of a switch to cut off the power. This is not my recollection of Butterfield's testimony. I recall that Butterfield was asked and was specific that the Presidential bugs could not be deactivated by Nixon, and that Nixon never asked for them to be shut off at any time. Also, are you assuming GL could shut off the tape from his desk? If so, why did he get up from his desk,go to a corner and wisper about exec. clemency to Hunt when Dean was there (assuming Dean's story is true)? Also, I'm not proposing this was the only reason GL avoided the WH. GL's framing of Dean as you formulate it does not conflict with my ideas of the protracted March 21 conversation in Hald's presence, and Hald's testimony entirely supports it. I think our disagreement is less than you portray.

My recollection is pretty good that the JFK books have nothing on Nixon and the test-ban. When I get a chance, I'll check NYT index. May be a couple weeks.

On first reaction, I found the letter from Dick upsetting. On reflection, it is undoubtedly the best thing if the marriage had gone bad. Dick has impressed me as a strong person of sound mind, and I have confidence that he will emerge from this as well as one can under such circumstances. It will surely depend on many external circusmstances, and it is that which causes me the most concern. I hope everything turns out OK.

Penguin rejected my book after three months. Only A.S. Barnes has it now, over 3 months. I'm not hopeful at all. After this, I think I told you, a sort of paperback agent will try to place the book.

As you can imagine, I'm rushed. I'm sorry to hear that Lil is in such a depressed state. Your letters did not really indicate the source of what certainly seems to be excessive even for her. I hope she comes out of it soon. My best to both of you.

Howard